

Genscher pledges EC peace efforts

AMMAN (AP) — West Germany wants to use its presidency of the European Community (EC) to speed up Middle East peace efforts, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher told two Palestinian leaders Monday. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Genscher told Hanan Shiova, editor of Al Fajr, and Tayer Abu Rahme, a Gaza lawyer, that his country wanted to support and accelerate peace efforts during its six-month presidency, which ends in June. He said Genscher met the two to hear the local population's views on the present uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. According to the spokesman, neither Palestine had any contact with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). After an informal meeting of EC foreign ministers over the weekend, the EC reaffirmed its support for an international conference on the Middle East and welcomed the new American peace proposal, which includes a call for an international conference. Genscher said Sunday he would meet Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahim, a representative of the Arab League, to try and give a new impulse to efforts for peace in the Middle East.

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King visits GHQ

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Monday, called at the Armed Forces General Headquarters where he was briefed by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker on Armed Forces training programmes and activities.

King sends good wishes to Assad

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a message of greetings Monday to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the "Revolution of March 8" and wished Assad continued health and happiness and the Syrian people progress and prosperity.

King congratulates Senegalese leader

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable to Senegalese President Abdou Diouf congratulating him on the occasion of his re-election as president. The King noted Senegal's effective role in Islamic cooperation through the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). The King also wished Diouf continuing good health and happiness and the Senegalese people further progress and prosperity.

GCC ministers to meet March 15

RIYADH (R) — Foreign ministers from Arab Gulf states will meet next week to discuss the "war of the cities" between Baghdad and Tehran and international efforts to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. A GCC spokesman said the March 15 meeting will also cover the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories and American proposals for an international Middle East peace conference.

Ibn Ali due in S. Arabia today

TUNIS (AP) — President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali departs Tuesday for a four-day visit to Saudi Arabia, his first to the Middle East since coming to power in November, the presidency announced Monday.

Lebanese deputy dies

BEIRUT (R) — A Christian Maronite member of the Lebanese parliament, Father Siama Douaihy, died of a heart attack Monday, parliamentary sources said. His death brings to 22 the number of seats vacant in the 99-seat single chamber legislature.

Sweden avoids criticism of Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson said Monday that he arrived in Israel to support the Jewish state and not to criticise its handling of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. Andersson said Sweden opposed any boycott of Israeli products in his country to protest against Israel's use of force to quell the uprising. "This is not a time for criticism... I have not come to give you advice but our support," Andersson told reporters on arrival at Tel Aviv airport. The minister is due in Amman Wednesday.

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Jordan Times

An independent English-language daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جordan Times يومية سياسية تصدر باللغة الإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الأردنية للطباعة والنشر

Gorbachev sees fight over reform

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev has warned the Soviet Union's 18 million bureaucrats that they would face a tough battle if they stand in the way of his reform drive, the official TASS news agency reported Monday. Gorbachev made his remarks last Friday while touring a Moscow ball-bearing factory — part of the 60 per cent of Soviet industry which Jan. 1 entered what he calls "the second stage" of his economic reconstruction drive. "If bureaucracy once again halts the changes which have begun... it will be fatal for the country," Gorbachev said. "So the struggle ahead will be serious." Analysts said his mention of previous bureaucratic interference with reform appeared to be a reference to changes introduced by former Kremlin leader Nikita Khrushchev which ground to a halt when he was ousted in 1964. Khrushchev's successor Leonid Brezhnev restored vast power to what became a highly centralised ministerial empire. Brezhnev is now officially held responsible for "the era of stagnation." Gorbachev has said Khrushchev failed to impose economic reform because the changes were not backed up by broader rights for the public. His own reform programme, known as "perestroika," twins economic change with what he calls greater democracy.



A Palestinian woman takes off her shoes for more mobility and joins protesters throwing stones at Israeli soldiers in the village of Beit Sahour near Bethlehem.

Israeli bus hijacked; 6 killed in shootout

BEERSHEBA (Agencies) — Three men hijacked a bus taking workers to Israel's top secret nuclear reactor Monday and killed a hostage before Israeli police stormed the bus and shot them dead.

Three Israelis were killed and eight were wounded in the incident.

The gunmen threw hand grenades and fired a Kalashnikov assault rifle to seize the bus taking workers from Beersheba to the nuclear plant near Dimona, in the Negev Desert, where reports say Israel makes atom bombs.

The driver and most passengers escaped. The commandos took the remaining passengers hostage and demanded the release of all Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails, an army statement said.

Troops surrounded the bus. After an hour of negotiations, the commandos shot dead a hostage and wounded two others.

Israel Radio said the commandos were armed with fragmentation grenades, two Kalashnikov assault rifles and a Swedish-made Karl Gustav submachine gun.

A man claiming to represent the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Force 17 phoned a western news agency in Jerusalem and claimed responsibility for the hijacking.

Israel Radio said a PLO spokesman in Tunis told CBS the group was not responsible for the attack.

A special police unit was used to storm the bus, which was hijacked near the Arco junction 12 kilometres from the Dimona nuclear facility.

Israel Radio and officials said the commandos came across the lightly guarded border from Egypt at night near Ramat Nafta and took over a white military Renault about 7 a.m. Three officers inside escaped.

The squad drove the car towards the Beersheba-Dimona highway, throwing a hand grenade at an Israeli semi-trailer but causing no injuries.

The army and witnesses said a Volvo bus with the nuclear workers came from the opposite direction, and the gunmen fired at the bus and threw grenades until it stopped.

Most of the passengers and the driver escaped but a man and nine women remained, the radio said.

Officials at Soroka hospital in Beersheba said eight women were admitted for treatment of gunshot wounds. It was not clear how two of the women were wounded.

A police van followed the bus after police heard shots and fired at its tyres, forcing it to stop.

Protesters hurl grenade at Israeli troops in Idna

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian protesters hurled a grenade Monday at Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank, the army said, and military and hospital officials said at least 12 Palestinians were shot during clashes with troops.

Widespread protests erupted in the occupied territories Monday, marking the anniversary of Israel's 1957 withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, and at least one Palestinian died.

A 33-year-old Palestinian protester, Salaheddin Naqeeb from Askar refugee camp, was pronounced dead on arrival at Al Ittihad hospital in Nablus after troops opened fire on protesters in the camp.

An army spokesman said one soldier was wounded Monday when a grenade was thrown at troops in Idna, 30 kilometres southwest of Jerusalem, as they moved through the West Bank village to arrest Palestinian protesters.

The incident was the third time since the uprising began Dec. 8 that Palestinians have used firearms or military-type weapons against Israeli soldiers, despite orders by the Palestine Libera-

tion Organisation (PLO) not to use fire arms in confrontations with troops.

In the clashes, Palestinians have hurled stones, bottles and homemade gasoline bombs at soldiers armed with automatic rifles.

The army said soldiers shot seven Palestinians as they fired in the direction from which the grenade came. The Palestine Press Service (PPS) said eight were wounded in the clash.

One official at Al Ittihad hospital told Reuters many people were wounded in the Askar confrontation, but gave no specific number.

In the West Bank village of Kabatiyah, troops blew up the homes of two Palestinians allegedly involved in the lynching of a local resident suspected of collaborating with Israel, the army said.

In the Gaza Strip, 38 of 40 local employees of the tax department

were shot during clashes with troops.

The move threatens to cripple tax collection in Gaza where some 600,000 Palestinians live. It came in response to a call for resignations from factions of the PLO and Islamic fundamentalists in a leaflet distributed in the occupied territories last week.

The Jerusalem Post quoted Shmuel Goren, Israeli "coordinator" for the territories, as saying the administration had already turned to alternative methods of tax collection.

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were shot during clashes with troops.

Half a dozen Israeli soldiers from a unit with a reputation for brutality went on the rampage Monday in Ramallah, sowing panic among motorists and bystanders.

They poked rifle barrels into motorists' faces, beat a news photographer, threatened old women, blasted a car with rubber bullets and threw a tear-gas canister so close to themselves they had to retreat.

Shamir stalls vote on Shultz peace plan

GENEVA (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has blocked a cabinet decision on the U.S. Middle East peace initiative, and said he would try to persuade the Reagan administration to adopt changes in the plan when he visits Washington next week.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who has accepted the U.S. plan, demanded Sunday that the cabinet decide on the proposal before Shamir leaves for Washington. But sources said Peres apparently lacked the necessary support to push the issue to a vote.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz presented the plan to Shamir and Peres Friday at the end of a week of talks with leaders in the Middle East. Peres aides said Shamir asked for a response by March 15, a day after Shamir arrives in the United States.

A Shultz letter to Shamir outlining the U.S. plan was published Sunday in the *Yediot Achronot* newspaper. According to the March 4 letter, Shultz seeks agreement for the following proposal:

— An international conference attended by the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council is convened two weeks before the start of direct bilateral talks, tentatively scheduled to start May 1.

— In direct talks, Israel and Jordan negotiate an interim arrangement for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The interim solution will be in effect for three years, starting three months after the end of negotiations.

— Talks on a final settlement begin seven months after the start of interim talks.

The letter said the international conference does not have the power to veto or impose agreements, but that the negotiating partners could refer back to it in an as yet undetermined procedure.

The letter also said negotiations must be based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Shamir, who opposes key elements of the plan, including the international conference and the timetable, said Sunday that Shultz had assured him the plan was not an ultimatum.

During his visit to Washington, Shamir said, he would try to persuade the Americans to adopt changes that "better serve our interests."

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan sees positive elements in U.S. plan, seeks Arab coordination

By Lamis K. Andoni

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan sees positive elements in the new American Middle East peace plan and is seriously studying the proposals, Information Minister Han Al Khasawneh said Monday.

"We welcome the American moves, and we believe that the American reengagement in the peace process is positive," Khasawneh told reporters at a news conference held at the Ministry of Information.

The minister refused to disclose any detail of the American proposals submitted to Jordan by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz but said the Kingdom "views the American initiative positively."

He did not elaborate but added that Jordan was consulting other Arab parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), on the peace plan.

Asked if Jordan was going to give a separate reply to the U.S. or whether there would be a unified Arab reply, Khasawneh said the Kingdom would respond to the American plan as "an individual party but in accordance with



to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

PLO Deputy Military Commander Khalil Wazir was expected to arrive in Amman late Monday to head the Palestinian side of a meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee to Support the Steadfastness of the Palestinians living in the occupied Arab territories.

The PLO has rejected the new American peace plan and accused the U.S. of attempting to "defuse the Palestinian uprising" in the West Bank and Gaza.

Khasawneh refrained from commenting on the PLO's rejection of the American plan or Soviet reservations over the proposals.

He noted that "neither the Palestinian people nor the PLO is against the U.S.... they are anxious to achieve a comprehensive and just peaceful settlement."

According to a purported text of the American plan published by an Israeli newspaper and reprinted in the Jordan Times Monday, Arab-Israeli negotiations are scheduled to start May 1. The purported

(Continued on page 5)

Spanish speaker finds urgent need for peace

By Najwa Najjar

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The escalating Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza calls for "immediate steps" to be taken towards convening an international conference with an acceptable representation of the Palestinian people, Spanish Parliament Speaker Felix Pons said Monday.

Answering reporters' questions at a press conference Monday night before leaving for Egypt, Pons reaffirmed Spain's support for an international peace conference under United Nations auspices and attended by all concerned parties to the conflict. He welcomed as positive the new American proposal, which envisages an international conference.

During his stay in Jordan, Pons discussed Middle East peace efforts with His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Upper House Speaker Ahmad Lawzi and Lower House Speaker Akef Fayez.

Pons, speaker of Spain's Lower House of Parliament, said he considers the aims of his visit to Jordan as fulfilled. "For me, this visit has shown the deep relations between the two countries and

being signed one day before or after progress has been achieved towards the establishment of a transitional government."

"If there is sufficient progress, if we are convinced that we are on the way to the establishment of the transitional government, then that, in itself, will influence Pakistan's decision in regard to the signing of the agreements," he said.

The Afghan government says it is willing to form a national reconciliation government, but Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil said it might not even be installed by the end of the Soviet Union's planned nine-month withdrawal.

Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq says his country will not budge from its demand for an interim government in Kabul as part of a settlement of the Afghanistan problem, the Gulf News daily reported Monday.

But he told the English-language newspaper in an interview that he was optimistic that the proposed peace accord between Afghanistan and Pakistan would be signed on schedule.

"There is no question of the accord not going through. Allowing it to be dropped is no option," he said.

Missiles pound Tehran, Baghdad as 'war of cities' enter 8th day

BAHRAYN (Agencies) — Iran and Iraq lobbed more surface-to-surface missiles at each other's capitals and sent warplanes on bombing sorties against provincial cities in an unabated lethal duel that has claimed hundreds of civilian casualties.

Both sides reported border towns came under sustained artillery bombardment. A report said Iranian forces had seized a town in the northern city of Mosul for the first time.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported the Iraqi army fired three missiles into Tehran, a city of six million, Monday, the eighth day of the latest round of the "war of the cities" between the two Gulf war foes.

A Pakistani embassy official, who declined to be identified, told the AP that Khalid Mahmood, Pakistan's undersecretary for foreign affairs, arrived Sunday and delivered the letter to Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan.

Mahmood left Baghdad for Islamabad Sunday night, the official said.

An Iraqi military spokesman said Iraq fired three missiles at Tehran between 7:30 (0430 GMT) and 14:00 (1100 GMT), bringing the total in eight days to 41.

"The (Iraqi) missiles were fired

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Sudan blames Chad-Libya war for Darfur turmoil

KHARTOUM (R) — Robbers swapping their spears for Soviet-made rifles are claiming scores of lives in Sudan's "wild west" because of the flow of arms from neighbouring Chad, a Sudanese leader said Monday.

"In the old days people there used to steal while armed with spears. Now they use Kalashnikovs," Supreme Council member Ali Hassan Tajeddin told Reuters.

He said a surge in robberies in Darfur, a mainly desert area with a 600-kilometre-long border with Chad, was a side effect of the Chad conflict, which also borders Libya and the Central African Republic.

The reports, mainly by newspapers known to be sympathetic to the opposition National Islamic Front party, countered assertions by Mahdi and ministers belonging to his Umma Party that all foreign armed groups had left the country.

Armed robberies had claimed scores of lives in recent weeks, rising at an alarming rate because of the flow of arms from Chad, Tajeddin said.

Severe droughts in 1984 and 1985 and a drought now gripping the region had encouraged more men to turn to robbery to support themselves, he said.

"If a permanent peace is brought about in Chad and the Chad-Libya war ends, things will change for the better and government controls on the possession of arms will be restored in Darfur," Tajeddin said.

Only a solution of the Chad-Libya conflict can be the basis for the restoration of security in Darfur,"

Tajeddin also said persistent local press reports that Libyan troops had infiltrated into Darfur were untrue. He said a Sudanese army brigade deployed in the region had orders to deal firmly with intruders.

Tajeddin, who is in charge of African affairs in the five-man Supreme Council, Sudan's collective presidency, is a senior member of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's Umma Party and comes from Darfur.

He tried unsuccessfully last

Mahdi holds talks in Algiers

ALGIERS (R) — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi held a second round of private talks with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid Monday, the national news agency APS said without giving details.

The two leaders held their first meeting shortly after Mahdi arrived in Algiers Sunday for a two-day visit, accompanied by Sudanese Foreign Minister Maamoun Sanadah.

year to mediate a peaceful end to the Chad-Libya war.

Foreign presence

His remarks coincided with fresh Khartoum press reports that foreign military forces involved in the Chad conflict were still in Darfur, which also borders Libya and the Central African Republic.

The reports, mainly by newspapers known to be sympathetic to the opposition National Islamic Front party, countered assertions by Mahdi and ministers belonging to his Umma Party that all foreign armed groups had left the country.

Interior Minister Sidahmed Al Hussein, not an Umma member, said last week the Libyan-backed Ibn Omar militia was active in Darfur and Chad government troops had crossed the border in search of the force.

The daily Al Sudani quoted a parliamentary deputy from Darfur Monday as saying he had seen about 3,000 soldiers from whci he called neighbouring countries in the area. He did not say when.

Another daily, Al Ayam, said Sudanese troops had tightened their siege of fighters from Ibn Omar, which is fighting troops of the Western-backed government of Chad President Hissene Habre.

It quoted what it called an official source as saying the force infiltrated into Darfur last week after being repulsed by government troops in Chad. The militiamen had earlier been driven out of Sudan, it said.

Tajeddin, who visited Libya secretly a week ago to defuse a diplomatic crisis in relations with Sudan, said political parties were exploiting insecurity in Darfur.

"I would like to reconcile Chad and Libya. To do this Sudan must remain neutral. It is our policy not to allow foreign forces into our territory," he said.

A deputy from National Islamic Front has claimed that Mahdi's Umma Party, known to have close links with Libya, struck a secret deal with Tripoli to allow the Ibn Omar militia the use of Sudanese territory.

Umma leaders angrily denied the charge and a parliamentary probe is expected to start soon.



Against a wall of painted-over graffiti, a young masked Palestinian takes aim at Israeli soldiers. One of the casualties in the 12-week-old Palestinian uprising is Israel's lucrative tourism industry.

Iran admits firing at U.S. helicopters

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran said Monday its anti-aircraft forces fired warning shots toward U.S. navy helicopters in the Gulf Sunday, forcing them to flee.

The Iranian news agency IRNA, received in Cyprus, said Iranian navy radar operators detected the two helicopters approaching an Iranian zone and warnings were radioed to the Americans.

However IRNA, quoting an Iranian navy commander, said the helicopters ignored the warnings and entered the zone, prompting naval gunners to open up with warning shots.

The U.S. navy Sunday said the helicopters came under fierce barrage of machine-gun fire from an oil platform and boats in the central Gulf.

Asked whether he sought permission to retaliate, McTigue, said: "We were in communication with higher authorities. We were talking to our superiors."

It said the helicopters were on routine reconnaissance over international waters 1.5 miles from the darkened platform when shooting broke out.

The captain of the USS Simpson, Commander James McTigue, told reporters that the helicopters were on a routine reconnaissance mission.

The helicopters, normally heavily armed on patrol, took evasive action during the three-minute attack and did not return fire, he said. The aircraft safely returned to their ships.

It was the second attack on U.S. forces in the Gulf in just over 24 hours.

Haaretz said that about half of a group of 30 Italian mayors had cancelled a visit to Israel and that a conference of twin-twin mayors from Italy and Israel consequently faced cancellation.

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Palestinian uprising takes its toll on tourism

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza is causing serious problems for Israel's tourist industry, with many intended visitors cancelling holidays according to Hebrew press reports monitored by the London-based Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU).

According to Ma'ariv, which reports a "drastic fall in Israeli hotel bookings for spring and Passover." Israeli Tourism Minister Abraham Sharir has prepared an "emergency plan designed to persuade tourists to visit Israel despite the recent events," the latest issue of the CAABU bulletin said. Israeli hoteliers "have also taken emergency steps in order to convince foreign travel agents and tourists that visitors are safe in Israel."

Davar cited the case of a group of 21 people from the United States who had planned to tour Israel, under Jewish Agency auspices, as the prelude to possible immigration. As the Palestinian rebellion escalated, however, members of the group cancelled their bookings, and eventually returned to their ships.

"The fire from the platform was joined by fire from several unlighted boats in the area," he added. The boats were riding in rough, pounding seas.

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Israeli embassy sought to block senators' letter to Shultz

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israeli embassy officials urged 30 U.S. senators not to send a letter to Secretary of State George Shultz criticising Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, according to an embassy source said.

Shultz, upon returning Saturday from the Middle East, expressed to criticism of Shamir's position, saying the prime minister and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres agreed that Israel's annexation of territory could be a topic for negotiations. Peres and his Labour Party have openly endorsed Shultz's proposals, while Shamir and his Likud bloc have not.

The letter was signed by some staunch supporters of Israel. They include Michigan Democrat Senator Carl Levin, Minnesota Republican Rudy Boschwitz, Massachusetts Democrat Ted Kennedy and California Democrat Alan Cranston.

Congressional sources said the letter was also intended to send a message to Shamir and his right-wing allies that they should be more flexible in their response to the new American initiative.

The senators noted in their letter, dated March 3, that Israel had in the past supported the idea of "land for peace" by returning the Sinai peninsula to Egypt. But they cited a statement quoted in the Feb. 26 New York Times in which Shamir said: "... This expression of territory for peace is not accepted by me."

Vassiliou sees Cypriot problem as simple

NEW YORK (R) — The newly-elected president of Cyprus has said in an interview that he would be willing to meet the prime minister of Turkey, which invaded the island in 1974, for talks

on creating a federated Cyprus.

"I want that meeting. I'm ready to meet him at a place and time of his choice," George Vassiliou, who won last month's presidential run-off after introducing American-style election polling to the island nation, told this week's Newsweek magazine.

Vassiliou, a Hungarian-educated millionaire businessman, said he also had no objection to talks with Rauf Denktash, president of the self-proclaimed Turkish republic of north Cyprus.

"We must not give the impression that a meeting solves problems by itself," he said. "We've made progress; we agreed that Cyprus would be federated, that there would be three Turkish ministers and seven Greek Cypriots, that the president would be Greek and the vice president, Turkish Cypriot."

"But that's the sauce. Where's the meat?" he asked. "We failed to make our case, to show to the world that the Cypriot problem is much simpler than it appears."

"It's a basic problem of human rights," he said.

Vassiliou's objective of bringing the island's 460,000 Greek Cypriots and 120,000 Turkish Cypriots under one government coincides with a thaw between Ankara and Athens.

'Phantom ships' divert cargo to illegal Lebanese ports

By Ben Dobbins
The Associated Press

LONDON — A fleet of "phantom ships" has illegally diverted more than \$30 million worth of international cargo, ranging from chick-peas to steel, to militia-held ports in Lebanon in the last 18 months, according to a report released Monday.

The International Maritime Bureau, a division of the Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce, said at least 14 cargo shipments destined mainly for Indian sub-continent ports have vanished in Lebanon since August 1986.

Seven or eight merchant vessels, usually disguised and manned by crews using false documents, have picked up the cargoes at most eastern Mediterranean ports, then diverted to at least three illegal, customs-free ports in Lebanon, it said.

One vessel, the 2,500-tonne Lima, docked in the rightist-controlled port of Ras Selaia south of Tripoli last May after picking up 1,000 tonnes of cocoa beans worth \$1.6 million in Ghana, West Africa. The stolen beans were supposed to have been sent

to the Egyptian port of Alexandria, the bureau said.

About 400 tonnes of the consignment later was intercepted by authorities being trucked through east Beirut, and its ownership is currently being argued over in court, it said.

"We call them phantom ships," he said. They go into loading ports, appearing legitimate with their falsified papers and wrong names and arrange to transport and deliver a cargo. "The same ships are doing the same thing, again and again."

"It's very possible that there are smaller ships doing this and going into these ports," he said. "It goes unrecorded."

An almost identical cargo diversion operation occurred at the same Lebanese ports in the late 1970s, the bureau said.

The six-year-old bureau is setting up a task force later this month to investigate the thefts and is appealing for financial and investigative aid from other shipping agencies, it said.

ka near Tripoli and Jieh south of Beirut, are non-existent and officially paper work at the loading ports is minimal, he said.

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After a three-month operation expected to cost £80,000 (\$140,000), the bureau plans to identify the ships and their rogue crews.

It also will investigate reports that military arms have been secretly landed by the same ships.

The shipping companies losing their cargoes are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain insurance, Ellen said.

Most insurers have paid up for the losses but some have invoked technicalities in their policies which require companies to vouch for the financial viability of shipowners and others entrusted with their cargoes.

A series of deliberate ship sinkings in the Far East in 1978 were halted by a maritime industry inquiry, Ellen said.

"They came to a sudden halt as a result of an inquiry," he said. "We hope to do the same in Lebanon."

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition entitled "From Gothenburg to Electronics" at Goethe Institute (runs through March 31).

* Art exhibition by Mahmoud Taher at Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts (runs through April 15).

* Book exhibition at the Comprehensive Commercial Centre (Tower Building), Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle (permanent).

* The 55th paintings exhibition at the British Council (until March 19).

* Exhibition entitled "La terre entre vos mains" at the French Cultural Centre (until March 17).

* Islamic book exhibition at Yarmouk University in Irbid (until March 14).

* Exhibition of photos about woodcuts and typography in Germany at Mu'tah University in Karak (until March 15).

* Book exhibition at Arabian Club, Irbid (runs through March 17) from 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

* Plastic art exhibition by the Yarmouk University Drawing Club at British Council.

* Fifth caricature exhibition works of the late Naji Al Ali at Hussein Camp Youth Activities Centre.

VIDEOS

* Video about environment at the French Cultural Centre (until March 15).

FILM

* "Hemrich" (German with English subtitles) at 8:00 p.m. at the Goethe Institute.

* "Cultural Centres

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 320-5200, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

8:45 Aqaba (RJ) Fajr (Source) Dus

10:45 Amman (RJ) Dhuhr (Ast)

12:45 Amman (RJ) Magrib (Isha)

14:45 Amman (RJ) Isha (Fajr)

16:45 Amman (RJ) Dhuhr (Ast)

18:45 Amman (RJ) Magrib (Isha)

20:45 Amman (RJ) Isha (Fajr)

22:45 Amman (RJ) Dhuhr (Ast)

24:45 Amman (RJ) Magrib (Isha)

26:45 Amman (RJ) Isha (Fajr)

28:45 Amman (RJ) Dhuhr (Ast)

30:45 Amman (RJ) Magrib (Isha)

32:45 Amman (RJ) Isha (Fajr)

34:45 Amman (RJ) Dhuhr (Ast)

36:45 Amman (RJ) Mag

Home news

JORDAN BRIEFS

CHILDREN: Her Majesty Queen Noor will patronise a seminar on children's literature in Jordan which will be organised by the National Children's Education League in the Kingdom towards the end of March. A total of 15 working papers will be presented and reviewed at the seminar which is being organised in cooperation with the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF). The league whose honorary president is Queen Noor was established by NHF in 1986 with the aim of promoting services to children.

EGYPTIAN TEAM: An Egyptian agricultural delegation Monday visited Agricultural surgeries and stations in Irbid governorate and were briefed on their activities. These stations are involved in experiments for producing improved seeds, increasing cereal production and finding new strains of plants and crops. The delegation is visiting Jordan for talks on the prospect of setting up a Jordanian-Egyptian company for producing seeds.

THIEVES CAPTURED: Police in Sahab, near Amman, announced the capture of three thieves who used to break into homes and steal electrical appliances, cameras and video and television sets. A report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily quoted Sahab Police Director Ibrahim Arabyar as saying that the search for the thieves began following complaints from local residents about thefts at their homes. One of the thieves was caught red-handed on March 3, and identified his two accomplices, which led to their arrest, according to the report. Arabyar said the three thieves admitted to their crimes and handed in the stolen items.

MAFRAQ DAMS: A special team from the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) has embarked on a study on means to maintain dams and pools in Mafraq region to use the collected water for irrigation. A WAJ official said that the study covers the prospect of raising dam walls and building walls around pools. Mafraq district has six dams and 13 pools.

VTC PROGRAMMES: The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) has started a programme of guiding students at the preparatory level towards choosing trades following their completion of their compulsory school stage. A VTC official said the programme entails explaining to the students all about trade courses at vocational centres for boys and girls.

NEW CENTRE: Final arrangements have been made for opening a centre for diagnosing the handicapped at the Social Workers College in Amman, college Dean Shabib Abu Jaber said.

The centre, which will open its doors during this month will be working in close cooperation with a team of specialists from Al Hussein Medical Centre and the Health Ministry, Abu Jaber added.

PEOPLE'S ARMY: A new batch of people's army recruits graduated here Monday after completing a three month training course in the use of light arms. The graduates were male and female trainees at a vocational training centre in Balqa Governorate.

BOOK ON RIOTS: The first ever book on the bloody events of Mecca during the 1987 pilgrimage season, has just appeared in Jordan. The author, Dr. Ahmad Oweidi Abbadi, was one of the pilgrims performing the religious rites in the Holy City when the events took place. The 220-page illustrated book entitled "My Travels to Mecca" relates in detail the riots organised by Iranian pilgrims, and presents pictures of the tools and weapons used by Iranians to attack other pilgrims and Saudi security men.

SOCIETY IN SPAIN: A new society for Jordanian expatriates living and working in Spain has been registered with the Ministry of Labour, according to Labour Ministry Expatriates Affairs Department Director Azmi Al Muhibat. He said that the society aims at maintaining contacts between expatriates in different parts of Spain and their homeland and also to promote cultural relation between Jordan and Spain.

SSC COURSE: The Social Security Corporation (SSC) has opened training course for 25 new employees, to orient them on different skills related to SSC work. SSC Deputy Director General Issa Hanania, who opened the course, underlined the importance of training which he said provides employees with ability to deal with different SSC cases.

JCO MEETING: Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Director General Mrewid Al Tal Wednesday attends a meeting in Jerash to discuss the agricultural cooperative movement and its activities in Jerash district. The application of a five year plan for developing this movement will be the focus of this meeting.

LESSER PILGRIMAGE: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs is currently making arrangements for Muslims from Palestinian territories occupied since 1948 to perform the Lesser Pilgrimage to Mecca. The ministry's Secretary General, Masoud Al-Hussein, said that the ministry has urged the Awqaf Department in occupied Jerusalem to request the would-be pilgrims to obtain valid permits until the end of this month, so that arrangements can be made for them to travel to Saudi Arabia.

SEWERAGE PROJECT: Work on a sewerage project for Karak, in southern Jordan, will hopefully be completed in two months, according to Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Engineer Mahmoud Tahouni. During an inspection tour on the project, he said once the project is finished, the streets will be paved and levelled immediately, and WAJ will embark on a second phase to lay sewerage networks in the new Karak districts.

PARIS TALKS: Planning Ministry Secretary General will head the Jordanian side to the Joint Jordanian-French Technical Committee meeting, due to be held in Paris, France on March 14, to discuss means of developing and promoting bilateral cooperation in the fields of education, culture, science and telecommunications.

MARKETING COURSE: An eight week training course on basics of marketing starts at the University of Jordan's Technical Consultations and Services Centre Saturday. A 17-day course on library science and documentation will also start Saturday.

CELEBRATION: Ministry of Awqaf Assistant Secretary General Ahmad Hilayel will head the ministry's delegation to the grand religious celebration which will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Tuesday. The highlights of the event will be the inauguration of the Malaysian National Mosque and the Islamic Centre.

MICROWAVES: Telecommunications Corporation-Director General Mohammad Shahid Ismail next week leaves for Cairo where he will hold talks with Egyptian officials on implementing a microwave project between Jordan and Egypt.

ANJARAH FESTIVAL: Anjara Secondary School for boys Monday held a cultural and sports festival during which lectures on different topics were made. Anjara students carried out voluntary cleaning of mosques, streets and public squares.

IRAQI ENVOY: Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation in construction fields were discussed Monday by Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaideh and Iraq's Ambassador to Jordan Ghafel Jasem Hussein.

CDD CEREMONY: The Civil Defence Department (CDD) Monday held an honouring ceremony for a number of its officers who have recently been retired from service. CDD Director General Lieutenant General Khaled Al Tarawneh presented merititious gifts to the retired officers at the end of the ceremony.

BOOK EXHIBITION: Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh Tuesday opens a book exhibition on women at the Greater Amman Municipality Library, in cooperation with Forum Humanum. The week-long exhibition is on the occasion of the International Women's Day and includes books by Arab and Jordanian women writers, with a special section for children's books.

ARID REGIONS: A project to exploit semi-arid regions in Muwaqqar is being implemented by the University of Jordan's Faculty of Agriculture in cooperation with the European Community. University President Abdul Salam Al Majali and the dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Mahmoud Dweiri, Saturday visited the project and were briefed by its director Awni Tueimah on progress made, and steps so far achieved, towards carrying out the project.

HANANIA: The Jordanian Cardiologist Society has elected Dr. Daoud Hanania to serve as head of its board of directors and elected board members to serve for the coming two years. The election came at a society general assembly meeting which also elected Dr. Fuad Deilani as vice president. Jordanian Medical Association President Mamoud Abbadi attended the meeting.

Queen to honour Arab women in occupied lands

AMMAN (Petra) — A ceremony under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday to honour Arab women in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, for their part in the current uprising against Israel's inhuman practices and oppression, according to an announcement here Monday.

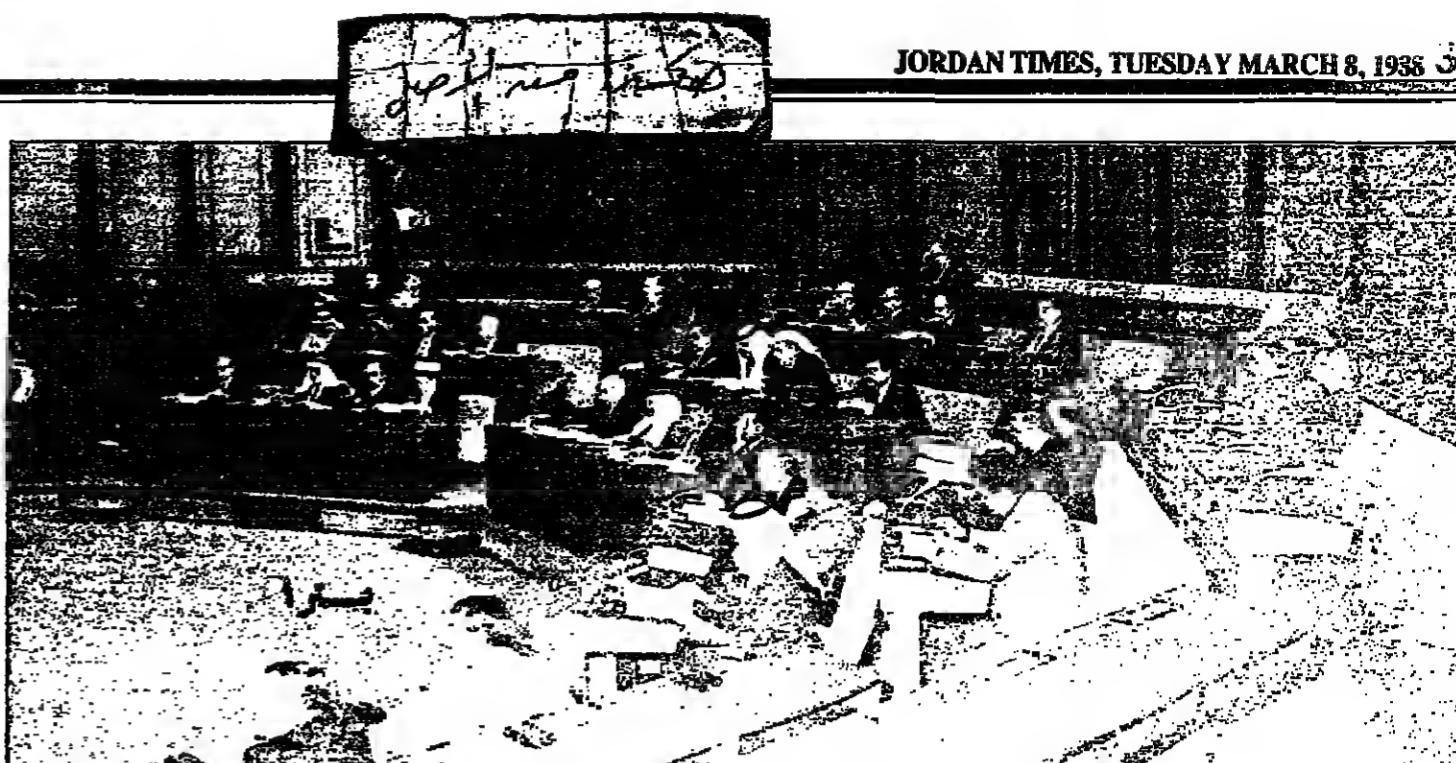
The announcement said that the ceremony is part of Jordan's celebration of International Women's Day, a world anniversary observed on March 8.

To mark the occasion the Ministry of Social Development's

Women Affairs Department will organise a number of seminars and celebrations to highlight the role played by Arab women in social and economic development.

Acting in cooperation with a number of local organisations, the ministry will also organise a special book exhibition featuring the work of women in cultural and social fields.

The ceremonies, according to the statement, are designed to focus attention on Jordanian women's activities in urban, rural and bedouin regions.



Lower House of Parliament in session Monday (Petra photo)

Parliamentarians fault JVA

Rifai, admitting some violations, criticises 'irresponsible' remarks

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Parliamentarians criticised the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Monday, during a regular meeting of the Lower House of Parliament, for alleged misconduct in land appropriation by some government officials.

Ghandaour also pointed out the significant role played by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) in supporting world airlines' operations by pro-

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan seeks protection for Arab workers under occupation

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Jordan's delegation to the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) meeting here has requested the participants to discuss the condition of Arab workers in the Israeli-occupied Arab territory, and means of providing them with protection against Israel's arbitrary measures.

The delegation, led by Minister of Labour and Social Develop-

ment Rashid Ureikat, called on international organisations to help stop Israel's repressive measures against Arab workers.

Addressing the opening session, Ureikat also renewed Jordan's total support for Iraq in its defence of Arab territories, and urged Arab and Islamic countries to extend all possible assistance to Iraq to repel aggression.

international umbrella for Middle East tasks, according to the political commentator for the Izvestia, the official Soviet newspaper.

During a meeting with the local press, Kostantin Gavandof denied that the Soviet Union supplied Iraq with the long-range missiles which are currently being used.

(Continued on page 5)

Ceramic exhibition highlights richness of culture in new, contemporary format

By Meg Abu Hanan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Starting a new season of exhibitions, by some of Jordan's most creative and stimulating artists at the Jordan National Gallery this week, is an exhibition of the latest ceramic work of Mahmoud Taha.

Taha is one of the very few local artists to have exhibited his work twice in the prestigious National Gallery and back in 1980 when he held his first show there the space was dominated by huge immaculately crafted spheres often split to show the mysteries of their cores and by large medallions and jars. It was an exhibition not just of ceramics but also of the volumes they created.

The almost two dimensional quality of this present show is thus a sharp contrast. Hung like

paintings, Taha's ceramic wall tiles with their Hessian frames are supplemented by large shallow bowls, whose restrained designs and coolly glistening glazes act as a foil for the complex interweaving patterns and multifarious textures of the tiles.

ART REVIEW

Using calligraphy, Islamic decorative designs and architectural motifs as individual elements, Taha builds up the surface of his tiles like a collage. By juxtaposing contrasting glazes and similar shapes one with another he achieves a delicately balanced harmony in these pieces that is both rich and satisfying.

Smooth blue glazes edge indented areas of stippled clay burnished to deep brown, while glossy black glazes, through which magenta peep, flow under glazes

of the palest beige. Deep mottled green arches rise to nudge heavy and imposing kufic on which in turn stars and crenellations rest.

A master of glazes, Taha has

used their soft and subtle tones to successfully unify not only the different ideas and feelings within each piece but each individual work with all the rest.

More rational and less emotional than his earlier spheres although perhaps less exciting initially, Taha with these wall tiles has achieved a more relevant and significant form of expression. He has successfully, where so many have failed, employed the richness of his own heritage and culture in a new and contemporary format, that is at once rigorous and well disciplined.

There is a feeling that each

element is exactly where it should be, nothing disturbs and like Islamic design itself there are no lapses into easy organic sprawl.

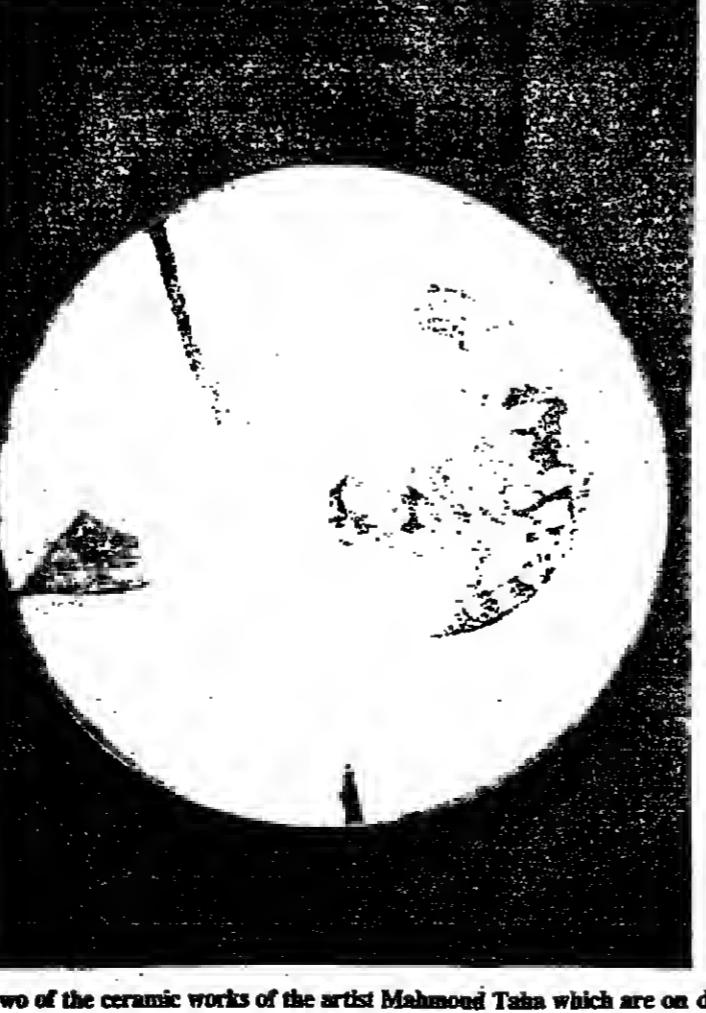
This tightness and control along with Taha's experience, unique aesthetic judgement and above all his excellent craftsmanship lend these works a timeless enduring quality that ensure them a place as modern classics.

The bowls are also classics of their kind. Reminiscent of some of the earliest examples of Islamic ceramics from the ninth century, their designs incorporate a great purity of line, a Spartan simplicity that both dissects and enhances the circles in which they are set.

Traced in tones a shade or two deeper than the background glaze, these designs seem to float enticingly under the surface of the bowl, like exotic fish beneath the silvery sheen of the sea.

The exhibition of Mahmoud Taha can be seen in the upper exhibition space of the Jordan National Gallery until March 14.

(Continued on page 5)



Two of the ceramic works of the artist Mahmoud Taha which are on display at the Jordan National Gallery

Meeting with Shultz still valid, Bethlehem mayor says

By Sa'd G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Shultz's proposal, indicating a distinct development in the United States' attitude towards the Palestinian issue, was primarily prompted by the Palestinian national uprising, and deals directly with the idea of an

international umbrella for Middle East tasks, according to the political commentator for the Izvestia, the official Soviet newspaper.

Shultz came to the region carrying a defined project. He met governments of the region. In what capacity we were supposed to meet him without the consent of the organisation," Freij told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview.

He said his talks with Minister of Occupied Territories Marwan Daud and Planning Minister Taher Kan'an covered topics related to development projects in Bethlehem.

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan to observe Dental Health Day tomorrow

AMMAN (Petra) — Dental caries have been on the increase over the past few years among members of the public in general, and school children in particular.

To highlight the importance of dental care, JDA will organise a Dental Health Day in Jordan on Wednesday in observance of the Arab Dental Health Day. Marqa noted.

He said activities on that day will be organised in cooperation with the Ministries of Education and Health and local organisations.

On April 6 the JDA will host the meetings of the Higher Council of the Arab Dental Federation in Amman, to discuss programmes on health care for Arab countries.

The Baghdad-based federation, which was established in 1968, groups dental unions in Arab countries.

Oman to host housing fair

ABU DHABI (Petra) — Following the success of a housing exhibition in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) it was decided that a similar exhibition will be held in Oman in July.

The decision was announced by the Deputy Director General of the Housing Bank, Abdul Qader Dweik, who headed a Jordanian delegation to the exhibition already held in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

The exhibition was organised by the Housing Corporation and the Housing Bank in cooperation with 35 Jordanian construction companies.

ZARQA (J.T.) — Zarqa police last year dealt with a total of 5,518 cases of which there were eight murders, according to police department director in Zarqa Colonel Abdul Hamid Isheid.

Quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily, Isheid said that the 1987 cases included 171 thefts or robberies, 27 cases of fraud, and that these included 599 cases in which juveniles were involved.

Isheid said that a 50 dunum land had been purchased for setting up a new headquarters for the Public Security Department in Zarqa, and that several security centres will be set up to take the place of the local police stations.

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The lesson of history

THE hand grenade thrown at Israeli troops by Palestinians in the West Bank village of Idna Monday is an important sign of which way the wind is blowing. The Palestinian uprising has been a relatively non-violent affair during the past three months, in the sense that the Palestinians have largely thrown stones and burned tires. The violence used by the Israeli occupation forces, resulting in over 85 Arab deaths and thousands of injuries and arrests, could not have been expected to remain unanswered. The hand grenade attack is probably the first sign of the willingness and the ability of the Palestinians to step up the nature of their struggle for national rights.

While an escalation of the violence on both sides is bound to result in harsher Israeli tactics and a rising death toll, an honest reading of both history and human nature would suggest that such a trend is inevitable. For what did the Israelis expect from the Palestinians? Surrender? Docile acquiescence?

It is striking how the dynamics of the Zionist-Palestinian conflict are returning to the original elements of the struggle which characterised the problem at the beginning of this century: Local clashes between an Israeli population bent on control of the land, and resistance by a Palestinian population determined to remain in its ancestral land and to exercise its inalienable right to freedom, dignity and national self-expression. The increased resistance of the Palestinians is generating more frenzied and irrational Israeli responses, including news blackouts, demolition of houses, mass arrests and curfews, collective punishments, and a crescendo of violence that has been projected on television screens around the world. It was inevitable, we believe, that the Palestinians would not forever restrain their protests and only use sticks and stones. And it is perhaps ironic that the Israelis are learning that their overwhelming military power is totally inappropriate for dealing with the mass uprising. This was the lesson of Vietnam: That an indigenous population armed with basic weapons and a strong national will, and willing to confront the enemy and to die if necessary, would triumph in the end. The lesson is being learned again by the Israelis in Palestine.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Summit unified Arab ranks

THE Arab summit held in Amman last November succeeded in placing the Arabs as a united front, face to face with challenges and dangers posed to their nation and their existence. It also succeeded in mobilising Arab countries' efforts in taking a joint stand vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict which has plagued the Arab Nation over the past four decades. But above all, the summit unified the Arabs on the need to work for a just and durable peace that would bring the nation, security and stability based on an international conference that can ensure success of all Arab endeavours in this direction. King Hussein has reaffirmed this point to the speaker of Spanish parliament Felix Pons. The King also explained the Jordanian initiatives in Western Europe whose leaders have expressed support for the Arab Nation's just rights and a comprehensive solution for the Palestine problem. Jordan and the rest of the Arab countries, continue to seek European help towards the establishment of peace which is as essential in the Arabs as it is to the European nations. The King said that Europe along with all the concerned parties including the PLO should take a leading part in the peace process.

Al Dustour: Shamir stalling

IT seems that the Israeli government is doing all it can at present to undermine the U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's initiative to find a solution for the Arab-Israeli problem; and the latest statements by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir tend to indicate to that direction. Israel, according to observers, is trying hard to stall for time with the hope of making Shultz's initiative void of its content, and place the U.S. administration in an embarrassing situation unable to deal with the problem, specially in view of the approach of the end of its mandate. The more delays in implementing Shultz's initiative, the better for Israel because time is running out for the U.S. administration which may not be involved in the coming presidential elections. The delay will eventually detract Washington's attention from the Middle East and weaken the U.S. role in Arab-Israeli affairs. Shamir Sunday announced that he was taking his time to respond to Shultz's plan, and said that a final answer could be given after his coming visit to Washington. Our experience with Israel proves that its leaders tend to stall for time and so force world community and the superpowers to miss the chance for establishing genuine peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: King reaffirms Jordan position

KING Hussein Sunday reaffirmed Jordan's firm stand with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and said that the Amman summit unified the Arabs in their demand for an international conference to resolve the problem. In his meeting with Felix Pons, the speaker of the Spanish parliament, King Hussein stressed that Jordan's current diplomatic offensive is aimed at convening that conference which should be attended by all concerned parties as well as the PLO. This reaffirmation echoes Prime Minister Zaid Rifai's earlier statements on this question and on the need of involving Spain through the European Community in resolving this problem. Jordan is seeking help from Spain and the other European countries to establish a just and durable peace in our region, and end Israel's occupation of Arab territory. Spain, as a friendly nation to the Arabs, has supported the Arab cause because it believes that Israel continues to block efforts and continues to prevent the establishment of peace. Spain considers the recent Arab uprising in the occupied lands as a reaction to the long years of sufferings and oppression.

Numbers that anger the West, Israel

By Edward W. Said

WASHINGTON — In a society dominated by the ideology of facts and figures it is often forgotten how only the interpretation of these facts and figures is what matters, not the bare statistics themselves. In 1986, for example, the Kenyan scholar Ali Mazrui, who is a distinguished professor of political science at the University of Michigan, presented a series of nine programmes about the Africans on American television; these programmes were originally produced for the BBC, but were shown here because they were considered to be timely and interesting. Although they were scholarly and on the whole rather dry, the programmes attracted a good deal of attention and controversy, partly because Mazrui attacked the colonial legacy and praised the Islamic legacy, and partly because the very notion that a black man presenting Africa without any supervision or intervention by whites was, to many people, extremely difficult to deal with. Nevertheless, a small but, in my opinion, quite fascinating aspect of the debate about Mazrui's programmes concerned his figures for the number of people killed during the building of the Suez Canal and by the French in the course of the Algerian War of Independence, 1954-62.

Part of the attack on Mazrui in general was, of course, ideological. He was thought to have been blaming the European powers who raided, controlled and underdeveloped Africa during the period of imperialism, for many of the enormous problems

famine, poverty, corruption, etc. — of today's new independent African nations. This suggestion by some of Mazrui's critics was also presented as a defense of Western civilization, which in its centuries of exploiting the non-European world was believed at the same time to be bringing light into the darkness. But when Mazrui commented on how even the great schemes to advance world progress (the Suez Canal being a leading example) he was able to show that the cost to Africans was very great indeed. This did not please the television critic of the *New York Times* who accused Mazrui of, among other things, using inflated figures. I don't recall the exact number here, but I think that Mazrui said that 20,000 Egyptians died during the building of the Canal, whereas John Corry, the *Times*'s critic, said that only 10,000 had perished.

Taken in isolation this claim by Corry seems to be an accusation by an enlightened Western intellectual of a wayward non-Western propagandist, who was trying to use fraudulent figures: (a) to make people feel sorry for the present poverty of Africa, thus turning blame away from Africans themselves, (b) to make Westerners feel guilty for what they did in the past, thus driving some Westerners to new anti-Western excesses. Immediately of course the whole question of how many Egyptians actually died well over 120 years ago is transformed into a political issue in the present. In another context, Corry would have become

furious at any one even trying to suggest that "only" so many million Europeans had died during World War I, or that only so many Americans had died during the Vietnamese War. There is supposed, quite rightly, to be matter of decency that sets limits to discussions of numbers of dead or injured, specially when large-scale catastrophes are at issue. But one discovers, that is only true when it is Westerners who die, not when non-Europeans are at issue. And the fact that the television critic of a major newspaper like the *Times* allowed himself this particular attack on Mazrui's figure suggests that there is widespread acceptance of the proposition that Black (or at any rate non-Western) casualties can be disposed of, whereas Western ones cannot be.

One other example is worth mentioning. A short time ago I wrote an article for a well-known magazine on an early travel book by the celebrated French writer Andre Gide. The book was in fact a sort of private journal of Gide's journeys through Tunisia and Algeria during the first few years of this century, and it was interesting not because it had any thing to say about Algeria or Tunisia but because it recorded some of his thoughts, his fantasies, and one or two unusual experiences. In the course of my article I mentioned that Gide wrote at a time when the French occupation of Algeria had already been in effect for over 75 years, and that in the process very severe hardships had been visited on the Algerians. I cited historic

al sources showing that during the first 15 years of the occupation in 1967, or how the statistics for earnings and schooling have risen impressively. Of course these figures are cited out of context, so that the casual reader would think that the condition of the Palestinians has become better because of the occupation, whereas by comparison with the statistics for the Jewish sector — never mentioned in this context — Palestinian statistics are considerably less impressive.

The other concern concerns the question of the number of Israeli Jewish casualties, therefore, the Palestinian people whose sufferings at the hands of Israel since 1948 have been deep and terrible, have become what many Israelis now call a demographic "time-bomb." The irony is that there seems to be little awareness that Palestinians, like Jews and others, are perfectly capable of feeling injustice, anger and political resentment at their fate as a marginal, rightless people, yet to some Israelis and Americans it is only numbers that they represent anything worth thinking about, even as the heroic protest continues on the occupied territories and elsewhere. How extraordinary that the Jews, a people who were often treated as mere statistics by their enemies have now dehumanised another people, and turned this people into a set of "demographic" facts and figures. In the process such a transformation eliminates the political claims of the Palestinians, leaving them only at the level of impersonal numbers that disturb the peace of the Jewish state — Arab News.

'Super Tuesday' — watershed in U.S. race

By Alexander G. Higgins
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican and Democratic candidates for U.S. president face their biggest test on Tuesday as voters in 20 of the 50 states help trim the field in preparation for the November elections.

Vice President George Bush has been leading in polls over Sen. Robert Dole, his chief rival for the Republican nomination. And the Democratic race has narrowed — at least for the moment — to Michael Dukakis and Jesse Jackson.

But national polls are indicating that Richard Gephardt could re-emerge among the Democrats in subsequent weeks, with Jackson fading as he moves outside his political base in the south.

"Super Tuesday" is the name given March 8, when the Democratic Party in 20 states and one territory hold primary elections or "caucuses," which are local meetings. The Republican Party will have primaries or caucuses in 16 states.

The style of campaigning has suddenly changed, from the personal, hand-shaking encounters of earlier contests to whirlwind flights from stop to stop that can leave candidates unsure of where they are. Television commercials are also playing a larger role as candidates are less able to court voters in person.

Working for a crowd

Dole, the wit of the race, has joked that he has been reduced to going up in an airplane to look for gatherings of voters:

"Look, there's a crowd over in Mississippi. Let's go there," or "there are 50 people in a parking lot in Rhode Island. Let's land

there."

Although the area to be covered is much larger, the field of candidates has already been narrowed by earlier contests. Former Secretary of State Alexander Haig was the first to drop out of the Republican race after a poor showing in the first major event, the Feb. 8 Iowa caucuses.

After the Feb. 16 New Hampshire primary, Republican Pierre du Pont and Democrat Bruce Babbitt gave up. Democrat Paul Simon has curtailed his campaigning because of a shortage of funds, but remains in the race.

Besides Bush and Dole, the Republican field is completed by Jack Kemp and Pat Robertson. Six Democrats remain, including Gephardt, Albert Gore, and Gary Hart.

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Bush leading Republicans

A poll by the CBS broadcasting network and The New York Times this week found Bush had support of 44 per cent of those surveyed in 14 states in the south and adjacent "border" region. Dole had 20 per cent and Robertson 12 per cent.

Kemp, a congressman who has

led the fight for tax cuts and giving aid only to countries friendly to the United States, had only 3 per cent.

Regionalism still plays a large role in U.S. politics, much of it stemming from hostilities lingering from the civil war of the 1860s, when the southern confederates fought the union "Yankees" of the northeast.

Jackson, the only black in the race, has been doing well in public opinion surveys in the south, which has large black minorities. The CBS-Times poll showed 21 per cent supporting him, compared with 14 per cent for Dukakis and 12 per cent for Gore.

Gore, a senator from the border state of Tennessee, has virtually skipped Iowa and New Hampshire and concentrated on the south. His strategy was based on doing so well in the regional voting that he could overtake whoever emerged victorious from the earlier primaries.

Gore, who has tailored his stands to appeal to the more conservative voters in the south, has said his support is gaining as Super Tuesday approaches even though he has been lagging in the polls.

Dukakis leads Democrats

Dukakis, governor of the northern state of Massachusetts, has been doing surprisingly well

in the south, where some analysts had thought he would be seen as too far to the left. He has been promoting his tax and business-incentive ideas to encourage economic growth.

Gephardt, who won in Iowa and came second to Dukakis in New Hampshire, had 10 per cent in the CBS-Times poll. Gephardt is a congressman who campaigns on the need to force other countries to drop trade barriers.

The voting on Super Tuesday will be for the candidates, but the parties also are using the outcome to determine which delegates to send to next summer's conventions. The delegates at the convention will select one Democratic and one Republican nominee for the general election Nov. 8.

Any candidate who has the support of half the delegates going into the conventions can be assured of the nomination.

With about one third of the convention delegates at stake on Super Tuesday, the winners of each party's race could go far toward gaining the nomination.

Fewer than 10 per cent of the delegates have been chosen so far. The races are close, but Dukakis leads the Democrats, followed by Gephardt, Simon, Jackson, Gore and Hart.

The Republican delegate count has Bush in front, followed by Dole, Kemp and Robertson.

OPEN FORUM

'Bridges too far'

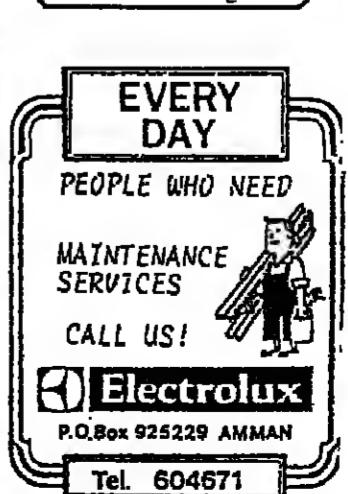
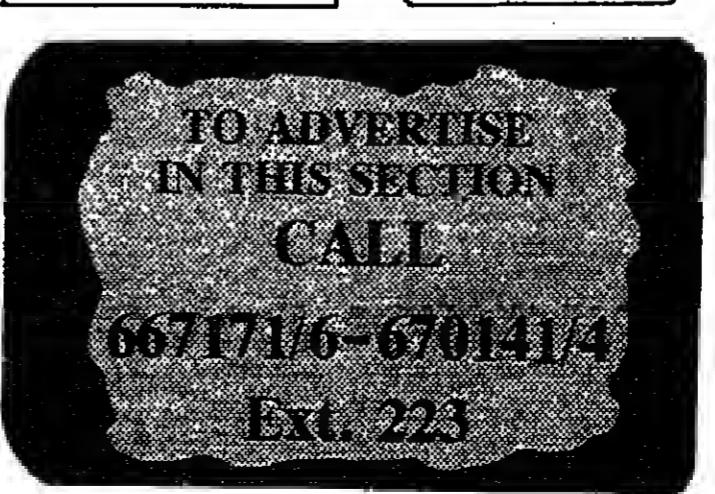
AS WE drive around Amman in circles, we are becoming more and more aware of the pitfalls of the detours in the morning, slowly forget their impact on our psyche, but we are also forgetting what brought us to this state of affairs in the first place.

The Greater Amman Municipality, in its efforts to beautify Amman and bring it to the high level efficiency it envisions for the capital, has forgotten to keep us informed on the development of the long-awaited bridges.

Every morning, most of the capital's residents blindly drive to their work without ever questioning why we are still playing "know your city," and haven't yet reached the higher level of the game, which is "know the rooftops of your city."

OPEN FORUM is an occasional column open to all Jordan Times readers, staff members, contributors and friends. Opinion, analysis or reflection pieces are invited from all would-be polemicists who have thoughts they would like to share with our readers. No topics are barred. The only criteria for submissions are good taste and the writer's name and address. All pieces must carry the writer's name, and can vary in length from a few sentences to a few pages. Submissions should be typed (double-spaced), and may be edited for style.

Nermene Murad





Women playing vital role in Palestinian uprising

By Dan Fisher

BEIT SAHUR, Israeli-occupied West Bank — The young Palestinian mother stood with her two-year-old son in her arms on the rooftop of her apartment building here watching the girls and women of Beit Sahur do their part for *Al Intifadah* — the uprising.

An athletic-looking high school girl with a grapefruit-sized rock in her throwing hand bound like a young deer toward the stone and scrap-metal barricade blocking the village's main road and shouted encouragement to her fellow demonstrators: "There's only one jeep full of soldiers. Don't worry."

At the roadblock, the high-schooler joined a woman old enough to be her grandmother, whose underlined rock-throwing style was not nearly as effective as the youth's but who exhibited no less enthusiasm.

Fifty yards behind the barricade a knot of about 30 more women chanted and sang, like cheerleaders at a college football game: "Israel, No. Palestine, Yes." They shouted in unison. "A stone has become a Kalashnikov."

Everyone was primed for ac-

tion when a correspondent arrived at the town's Greek Orthodox Church shortly after 9 in the morning. As worshippers sang hymns inside, several dozen local high school boys and girls gathered in the church courtyard.

The youths were outwardly calm. "We used to be afraid in the beginning," one conceded. "But not any more."

"Every Sunday, we have like this," a middle-aged Beit Sahur woman explained later. "And also on Friday."

As services ended at about 9:30, a dozen women, mostly in their teens and 20s, started chanting in the street just outside. One of the ringleaders — a short, English speaking blonde — had told the correspondent moments before the Palestinians weren't interested in the latest U.S. attempt to mediate some kind of Middle East peace settlement.

"We won't take anything from the United States." She said scowling. "We want our land. We want all Palestine."

"Gather around," the women sang, clapping in cadence. "Don't be afraid. Men of Beit Sahur: Come to the square." The crowd built slowly, and a tall, thin youth with a kaffiyeh masking his face emerged from an alley carrying a Palestinian flag on the end of a bamboo stick.

Shouting "glory to our martyrs," the crowd, now numbering about 100 and still predominantly female, followed the tall youth through the narrow streets of the village toward the main road.

As they marched, other masked youths blocked side roads with stones and scrap metal, and several girls went ahead to act as scouts.

By the time they reached the main road, about 30 young men were in the lead. They picked up stones as they approached a spot near the entrance to town marked by sooty stains on the pavement as the site of several previous demonstrations.

Two or three bad slingshots which they used for increased range, but still their stones fell short of a squad of Israeli soldiers that had taken up positions behind an old blue Volkswagen at a nearby intersection.

Whenever the youths seemed to tire of the standoff, the women behind would start shouting again, inspiring a new fusillade of stones.

Watching from her rooftop, Thuria recalled that she had learned many of the same songs and chants of the demonstrators when she was a schoolgirl. She escaped the nearby Dehaishe refugee camp where most of her family still lives when she married, she said. Two of her three brothers are in prison for anti-Israeli activity and another was expelled by the military authorities several years ago, she said.

Finally, the Israeli army had enough. Reinforcements arrived, one squad began a flanking maneuver and another started walking, rifles at the ready, toward the demonstrators.

"Come here, come here." A few of the teen-age girls taunted in Hebrew. But they quickly disappeared into the narrow village side streets, just like the stone-throwing boys before them.

"We're trying to keep them away," explained one girl.

When the troops ventured into the side streets, more women converged on them.

One, who identified herself as 66 year-old Jamila, taunted the troops by shouting repeatedly into their faces: "God is great. God is great."

Another chimed in: Palestine is our land.

The clearly frustrated soldiers would start to walk away, inspiring even more taunting until they would return, trying to push the women into their busses and getting into loud shouting matches with them. Both the soldiers and the women knew the Israelis would not use real force against them, particularly with several photographers on hand recording the incident.

"You're having a really good time, I suppose." One angry soldier yelled at a cameraman.

Another soldier cocked his automatic rifle menacingly, and a third fired one shot in the air when women surrounded him.

But that was all, and the women were not deterred — Los Angeles Times.

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Steiner wins World Cup slalom

ASPEN, Colo. (AP) — Slalom specialist Roswitha Steiner ended nine seasons of uncommon endeavour with an emphatically common result, capping her career by winning the final women's World Cup slalom of the season and capturing the 1987-88 discipline title as well.

"This is really a great finish for my career," the 24-year-old Austrian said Sunday after notching her eighth World Cup slalom victory and second slalom title.

"I am finished. This is it. Now I will take a vacation with my boyfriend and then get a job, probably in banking."

Steiner cashed in with a sizzling first run and a solid second heat in a treacherous race that saw only 22 of the 60 competitors finish the first run and just 15 survive both runs.

Austrians swept the top three positions, with Anita Wachter taking second and Monika Maierhofer third.

A giant slalom was scheduled for Monday.

Steiner's victory was worth 25 points and vaulted her from fifth in the slalom standings to first with 87 points. Previous standings leader Vreni Schneider of Switzerland, with 80 points, was sidelined for the season Friday after suffering a knee injury in an aborted downhill race here.

It was a rare dark day for the Swiss, who had not a single skier finish the race.

Steiner's main competition at

first appeared to be Switzerland's Corinne Schmidhauser, who was awarded second place but later was disqualified for missing a gate in the second heat.

Ironically, Steiner's other slalom title also came in the United States, when she was victorious in the season's final slalom at Waterville Valley, N.H., in 1986.

"I had to win the last race to win that title, too," she said.

Tying for fourth place were Pascale Frether of France and Karin Buder of Austria in 1:18.00.

Beth Madsen of the United States, who had the fastest second run of 37.27, finished sixth in 1:18.11, and Karen Percy of Canada was seventh in 1:18.53.

Six other Americans, led by Heidi Voelker, finished eighth through 13th.

The first run claimed 10 skiers out of the first seed of 15. Most of the casualties lost it coming over a knoll at the eighth gate.

Steiner called the first course, set by a French coach, "very difficult because the gates were set so close together and the snow was slippery."

Among those unable to finish the first run were Yugoslavia's Mateja Svet, silver medalist in the Olympic slalom; Switzerland's Brigitte Oertli, who won the downhill here Saturday; Spain's Blanca Fernandez Ochoa; West Germany's Christa Kinschow-Guetlein; Ida Ladstaetter of Austria and American Tamara McKinney.

pic slalom, the same result she had in 1984, and won the silver medal in slalom in the 1987 World Championships.

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A SMALL LEAD, BY A BIG NOSE — down the home stretch at Gulfstream Park astride hippopotamuses.

TENNIS

Maleeva bags Kansas tournament

WICHITA, Kan. (R) — Top seed Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria took advantage of Sylvia Hamka's predictable serve Sunday to win a tough battle from the third-seeded West German in the final of the \$100,000 Kansas Tennis Tournament.

Maleeva's 7-6, 7-5 victory gave the top seed her first title of 1988 and kept her record against Hamka perfect. Maleeva, who is now 4-0 against the West German, collected \$17,000 for the win. Hamka earned \$8,500.

Maleeva turned an otherwise even match in her favour at 6-5 in the tiebreak when she ripped a forehand service return down the right side past Hamka to take the opening set.

Maleeva said she expected that serve to come down the middle.

"I thought she might go to my forehand because she served a lot to my backhand and I thought she might want to try something else."

"For me" it was not difficult today to tell where her serve was going by the toss of the ball," said Maleeva. "I knew almost every time where the ball was going."

Hamka thought the second set hinged on calls that went against her.

"I hit a couple of big aces and they called them out. I mean, I could have been 4-2 up in the

third-seeded Boris Becker defeated No. 8 seed Emilio Sanchez 7-5, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4, in a grueling three-hour four-minute final match played in 104-degree heat in the \$702,500 Champions Cup Sunday.

Becker, a 20-year-old West German, won his first defence of the Champions Cup title. Sanchez, of Barcelona, Spain, has only won one out of seven matches against Becker, who is ranked sixth in the world.

Sanchez, ranked 18th in the world, won two straight upset victories coming into Sunday's final — the first against second-seeded Milosav Mecir Friday and the second against No. 4 seed Pat Cash in Saturday's semifinal.

Manuela Maleeva

second set," complained Hamka.

Hamka had trouble finding her rhythm after the questionable calls and lost her serve in the 12th and final game on unforced errors.

Becker beats Sanchez

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP) —

Boris Becker

Fenech clinches 3rd world boxing title

SYDNEY (R) — Jeff Fenech of Australia made light of a broken right hand to claim his third world title by stopping Victor Callejas of Puerto Rico in the 10th round of their 12-round featherweight title fight Monday.

Fenech's victory in the World Boxing Council (WBC) bout between two former super-bantamweight champions was not in doubt after he felled Callejas in the third round.

The 27-year-old from San Juan went down again in the eighth for his second standing count and two more rounds of relentless jabbing from Fenech convinced American referee Richard Steele to stop the fight after one minute 21 seconds of the 10th.

Fenech, a former International Boxing Federation bantamweight champion and WBC super-bantamweight titleholder, is the 11th boxer to claim three world titles.

He has completed the feat in less bouts than anyone in history.

The "Marrickville Mauler" is unbeaten in 20 professional bouts, 16 of which he has won inside the distance.

Fenech's triumph in front of 12,000 hometown fans was built on an imposing left jab and greater fitness which wore down Callejas curled up on the ropes to save himself from punishment.

In the third, Fenech spotted the gap he had been waiting for.

A right plumb on the nose followed by a left to the stomach dumped Callejas on the bottom

rope and then the canvas.

The bell for the end of the round saved the former World Boxing Association (WBA) champion who concentrated on hustling and holding Fenech whenever he lunged for the kill.

Callejas and inflict the first defeat on the Puerto Rican for nine years.

Callejas's shorter reach put him at a disadvantage but it was Fenech's greater speed and unrelenting aggression which caused most problems.

A left elbow in the face and a head butt in the second caused an angry Fenech to raise the pace but Callejas curled up on the ropes to save himself from punishment.

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Mexicans win Los Angeles marathon

LOS ANGELES (R) — Two little-known Mexicans — Martin Mondragon and Blanca Jaime — stunned the field to win the men's and women's divisions of the third annual Los Angeles Marathon Sunday.

Mondragon, 34, covered the distance in a course record of two hours 10 minutes 19 seconds, beating his better-known fellow countryman Jesus Herrera by 21 seconds.

The 23-year-old Jaime, running in only her third marathon, clocked a winning time of 2:36:10.

Magda Ilands of Belgium was second in 2:36:42 while Jillian Costly of New Zealand finished

third in the women's division in 2:36:48.

More than 16,000 runners entered the competition which began and ended just outside the Los Angeles coliseum and took them through various parts of the city including the famous Sunset and Hollywood boulevards.

Each of the winners received \$25,000 and a Mercedes-Benz automobile valued at around \$35,000.

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Performances 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, 10.30

DEADLY FRIEND

Performances 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, 10.30

NBA STANDINGS				
NEW YORK (R) — Standings of National Basketball Association (NBA) teams after Sunday's games:				
Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Boston Celtics	41	.19	.683	
Washington Bullets	25	.32	.439	14½
New York Knicks	24	.33	.421	15½
Philadelphia 76ers	24	.34	.414	16
New Jersey Nets	15	.42	.263	24½
Central Division				
Detroit Pistons	38	.19	.667	
Atlanta Hawks	35	.22	.614	3
Chicago Bulls	33	.25	.569	5½
Milwaukee Bucks	31	.25	.554	6½
Indiana Pacers	29	.29	.500	9½
Cleveland Cavaliers	28	.31	.475	11
Western Conference				
Midwest Division				
Dallas Mavericks	40	.18	.600	
Denver Nuggets	36	.21	.632	3½
Houston Rockets	34	.23	.596	5½
Utah Jazz	31	.26	.544	8½
San Antonio Spurs	22	.33	.400	16½
Sacramento Kings	17	.41	.293	23
Pacific Division				
X-Los Angeles Lakers	47	.10	.825	
Portland Trail Blazers	36	.21	.632	11
Seattle SuperSonics	30	.29	.508	13
Phoenix Suns	17	.40	.398	30
Golden State Warriors	14	.42	.359	32½
Los Angeles Clippers	12	.44	.214	34½
(X-clinched playoff Berth)				

NHL STANDINGS

NEW YORK (R) — Standings of National Hockey League (NHL) teams after Sunday's games:

NHL STANDINGS				
Wales Conference				

Jordan completes major housing projects envisaged in 5-year plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The major part of the five-year plan for setting up housing units in the Kingdom has been implemented, according to Public Works and Housing Minister Shafiq Zawadeh.

The minister said that the plan envisaged setting up 10,040 housing units between 1985 and 1990, and most of these have been built in the rural areas and the small towns of Jordan to meet the

growing demand for housing.

Some of these units were requested by government ministries and other departments to house their employees working in remote regions of the Kingdom.

Zawadeh said:

The construction of units in rural regions, he said, is bound to help stem people's movement from rural to urban regions and enable many to settle in their land and engage in agricultural

activity.

The cost of the 10,040 units was estimated at JD 113 million at the beginning of 1985, according to Zawadeh.

He said that the total of JD 1.6 billion was invested in the construction and building sector in the Kingdom in the past five year plan (1981-1985), 85 per cent of which was implemented by local contractors.

Royal Decree approves higher levy to benefit universities

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree has been issued approving the amendment of law no. (4) of 1985 entitled "Law of Additional Fees for the Universities of Jordan, Yarmouk, and Mu'tah".

According to Tax Brief, a bulletin issued by the Jordanian accounting firm Dajani and Alaeedan, paragraph (A) of article no. (3) of the said law will be cancelled and replaced by the following:

A An additional levy is imposed at one per cent annually calculated on the net profits of the public shareholding companies and the foreign companies registered and operating in Jordan. This levy is payable within 30 days from the approval by the general assembly of the financial statements of the company or 30 days from the date of publishing of financial statements by foreign companies operating in Jordan.

It should be noted that this amendment will be applicable on financial statements for the year ended December 1987.

The additional fees paid to the universities are deductible from the tax base.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — Trading of 514,927 shares of Jordan Lime and Silicate Brick Industries for a value of JD 145,309 boosted overall activities Monday to a total of 857,785 shares at a volume of JD 658,395 spread over 588 contracts, of which 167 involved the aforementioned company.

Universal Chemical Industries and Alaeddin Industries were in second and third position as 58,000 shares for JD 106,899 and 48,500 shares for JD 69,153 were recorded through 19 and 69 contracts respectively.

Other companies which posted high number of shares or a high volume of trading included: National Steel Industries (JD 63,229 for 22,170 shares); Intermediate Chemical Industries (JD 40,716 for 26,441 shares) and Jordan Cement Factories (JD 21,881 for 20,360 shares).

Shares of 47 companies were traded but prices varied noticeably for Arab Bank (JD 117,000 - 116,600) and Jordan Sulphur Chemical (JD 3,040 - JD 2,980).

At the parallel market; 16,719 shares were traded for a total of JD 9,830.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carol Higher Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a good time to begin new ventures, or to rid of old, non-profitable ones. When dealing with others today, sarcasm should be avoided at all costs. Be personable and confident this evening.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Avoid a friend who has a tale of woe to trouble you with, as you have enough problems of your own. Keep your mind on your personal goals.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be careful this evening, and don't allow yourself to be drawn into an activity you don't approve of. Be firm about this, but polite.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A long-standing debt could depend on if you can do it. If there is something you can do to rectify the situation, forget it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A good friend of yours has been feeling depressed and helpless, so try to raise the spirits of this person who has done so much for you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can accomplish a great deal today if you get an early start and use your energy constructively. Steer clear of an irate superior.

PIRATES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study every aspect of a new venture before you proceed. Listen to the views of others which may be quite different from your own.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Something special to cheer up your mate, as this person has been down in the dumps lately. Retire early and get plenty of rest tonight.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Avoid, a person who usually depresses you, or that mood will stick with you all day. Be more cooperative with your co-workers.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) If you have some entertainment plans, make sure these are activities you will truly enjoy, and which won't cost too much.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) If you want to have guests into your home, make it in the daytime only. Pay particular attention to the plumbing in your home.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Handle any reports or statements wise.

The Daily Commuter Puzzle



Minister passes budgets, tenders

KARAK (Petra) — Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Minister Yousef Al Jaber has approved a JD 100,000 budget for the Rabbeh municipality in Karak governorate.

Rabbeh Mayor Atewi Majali said that the funds will be mostly used for financing the construction of roads, lighting streets and purchasing land for public use.

The minister also approved a JD 766,760 budget for Salt and most of the funds will finance the construction of public gardens and roads.

Al Jaber approved of a tender for the construction and asphalting roads at Hallabat at the cost of JD 13,390. He also approved two tenders for the construction of walls around schools in Hama for JD 5,644 and culverts at Tibneh for JD 7,000.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.9790/80	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2545/55	Canadian dollar
	1.6852/59	Deutschmarks
	1.8911/21	Dutch guilders
	1.3925/35	Swiss francs
	35.21/24	Belgian francs
	5.7040/70	French francs
	1242/1244	Italian lire
	128.43/53	Japanese yen
	5.9730/80	Swedish crowns
	6.3400/50	Norwegian crowns
One ounce of gold	434.90/435.40	Danish crowns
		U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equity prices drifted lower throughout the first day of the new two-week account period, with some investors taking profits after the market's six per cent gain during the last account, dealers said.

The lower opening on Wall Street fuelled the decline but selling was relatively light and volume was lower than at the tail end of last week. At 1530 GMT Monday, the FTSE 100 index was down a net 21.4 points at 1,813.1 after an opening of 1,830.3 and a day's low of 1,809.4 just eight minutes after the U.S. opening.

Many leading issues showed large falls as they were trading in ex-dividend form. At 1500 GMT 302 million shares had been traded.

In spite of Monday's lower trend, dealers said many investors are still reluctant to sell large lines of stock amid optimism that the March 15 U.K. budget will stimulate the economy and help swell U.K. manufacturing and service industry profits.

However, they pointed out that potential buyers are being put off by concern over the U.K. balance of payments position and the market's susceptibility to adverse overseas influences.

Peanuts



Mutt'n Jeff



Andy Capp



School buildings, annexes cost Tafileh JD 343,809

TAFILEH (Petra) — The department of education in Tafileh district is at present building schools and annexes to existing ones at the total cost of JD 343,809, according to department director Ahmad Awawdeh.

He said that work is currently going on for the construction of a primary school at Grandal, a girls school in Tafileh and three workshops at a vocational school for boys.

He noted that the total number of existing schools now stands at 74, offering education to 14,000 students, but that 20 of these schools are rented buildings.

According to Awawdeh, the Ministry of Education has built a vocational school which opened its doors for trainees at the start of the current 1987-1988 scholastic year.

Iraq develops new oilfields to boost output by 200,000 barrels

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq is developing new oilfields that will boost its production by 600,000 barrels a day within the next few years, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

The respected oil industry weekly newsletter, published in Nicosia, quoted authoritative Iraqi oil sources as saying the Soviet Technoexport Company has started work on developing the giant West Gurna field in southern Iraq.

It is expected to start production within two years with an initial capacity of around 200,000 barrels a day, the weekly said.

A second phase to be carried out in the early 1990s, will raise the capacity of the field, discovered in 1973, to more than 600,000 barrels daily, the newsletter added.

It quoted the sources as saying that contracts to develop the Sadam, Khabbez and Khormal fields in Tikrit region of central Iraq will be signed by the middle of the year.

The minister also highlighted an agreement with the Jordan University of Science and Technology on the use of the Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid as a training hospital for doctors and nurses.

Jordan spends JD 70 million on national health services

IRBID (Petra) — Nearly seven per cent of the total national budget, or JD 70 million, is spent on health services through the various centres and hospitals, in Jordan, according to Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh.

In a lecture to the staff and students of Yarmouk University, the minister said that this proportion is two per cent higher than the margin suggested by the World Health Organisation.

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The Health Ministry, in a drive to improve and extend health services, has been opening integrated health centres in all regions of the Kingdom, and short-

ly it will open health centres in low-income, densely populated areas of Amman, Hamzeh said.

He spoke about the benefits of the new medical card system for all members of the public, and said that it helps the ministry to determine the volume of medical services at different centres in addition to saving funds and efforts.

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9 reported killed in Lhasa violence

PEKING (R) — Up to nine people have been killed in renewed unrest in Tibet, and China's official news agency said calm had returned to the area Monday after Saturday's violence involving nationalist Tibetans and Chinese security forces.

Westerners returning to Peking from Lhasa Sunday night said thousands of Tibetans attacked cars, threw stones at police and scuffled with Chinese journalists covering a holy Buddhist festival.

They said police used tear-gas to disperse rioters and gunfire was heard after dark.

The official New China News Agency said one policeman was thrown to his death from a window after demonstrators stormed a building where he was observing demonstrations. At least 28 other people were injured.

Western sources, contacted in Lhasa by the Associated Press, said the city was quiet Sunday and Monday, but that Jokhang Temple, the scene of the bloody clashes, was closed. Sources said stores were open and marketplace stalls were doing business Monday.

Reports said the violence began in the morning and continued late into the night. It did not say how many Tibetans took part in the riots or if there were any arrests.

It was the first outbreak of violence since last Oct. 1, when about 2,000 Tibetans, led by Buddhist monks, torched a police station facing the Jokhang Temple. Police opened fire, and at least 14 people were killed in the battle.

China, which claims Tibet has been an integral part of the nation for centuries, moved troops into the remote mountain region in 1950.

But many Tibetans deeply resent Peking because of oppression of Tibetan religion and customs and destruction of temples during the cultural revolution of 1966-76.

Although China since has tried to redress many of the past wrongs, friction remains between the Tibetan people and the Hans, China's ethnic majority, who continue to hold many senior posts in Lhasa.

The New China News Agency said Monday that protesters "stormed, looted and set fire to stores and restaurants and beat up policemen sent to maintain order."

It said protesters with steel bars and wooden sticks knocked down two policemen, stabbed them and threw them from a second-floor window. One of the policemen later died and the other was reported in serious condition.

The agency quoted Tibetan officials as demanding justice against the protesters.

The agency said: "They (local leaders) were of the opinion that

the people's government has exercised too much restraint and shown enough tolerance and patience towards these people."

Western diplomats in Peking said China would likely delay any easing of restrictions imposed after last October's unrest. Diplomats and journalists were only recently allowed to visit the region, which was placed off limits after the violence.

Curbs on individual tourists and tight travel restrictions along the Nepalese border would also remain in effect, the diplomats said.

Peking has stationed troops around Lhasa, posted police in the monasteries and forced monks to attend political education sessions. Diplomats said these tough restrictions would likely remain in force.

Saturday's protests came de-

spite heavy police security around the Jokhang temple to control crowds attending the 500-year-old annual Monlam Qenmo, or Great Prayer Festival.

Chinese authorities had considered cancelling the festival this year because of fears of a repetition of October's violence.

The Lhasa government has turned down almost all requests by foreign journalists to visit Lhasa and has restricted tourism to the area since October.

Protests in Delhi

In New Delhi, Tibetan exiles rushed Indian police lines Monday during a demonstration called in support of the protests in Tibet.

Several Tibetans among the 300 demonstrators, who included Buddhist monks, women and teenagers, were slightly injured when police prevented them mar-

ching to the presidential palace.

A Buddhist monk was knocked to the ground when he attacked police who took away the Tibetan flag he was carrying. Other protesters waved multicoloured Buddhist religious flags as they struggled with police.

Later demonstrators burned a Chinese flag and sang the Tibetan national anthem.

"We will win our freedom," the Tibetans chanted with clenched fists.

A demonstrator holding a Tibetan flag fainted and was carried away.

The Chinese embassy in the diplomatic district was cordoned off by police.

The demonstration was organised by Tibetan Freedom Movement, an organisation of self-exiled Tibetans, and the Tibetan Youth Congress.



Temple prayers ... Tibetan Buddhist monks assemble for prayers in Lhasa during the Monlam Qenmo festival. Monks, many of whom sympathised with last October's anti-Chinese demonstrations in

Lhasa, at first boycotted the festival at the Jokhang Temple, but later took part.

'Super Tuesday' polls show Bush, Dukakis leading

WASHINGTON (R) — Voters taking part in primary elections in 20 states Tuesday may give Vice-President George Bush an insurmountable lead in his bid to secure the Republican Party's presidential nomination.

The votes are the biggest one-day series of presidential primary contests in history, most of them in southern states. The involve selection of nearly one-third of the delegates attending convention this summer to determine the standard-bearers for both Republican and Democratic camps.

Opinion polls put Bush well clear of Senator Robert Dole, former television evangelist Pat Robertson and New York Congressman Jack Kemp in the 17 states holding Republican primaries and caucuses.

The Democratic race is tight in most of the 20 states where voting is taking place. Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis holds a lead in some key states, like Texas and Florida, over civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, Missouri Congressman Richard Gephardt and Tennessee Senator Albert Gore.

Dukakis also is expected to do well in his home state and Rhode Island, two of the six states at

stake outside the South.

Analysts from both parties say that despite substantial publicity surrounding "Super Tuesday," a low turnout could affect the outcome.

Bush, who scored his first win in the South Sunday Saturday in the South Carolina primary, could virtually nail down the party nomination with a good showing Tuesday.

At a glance, here's what is at stake on "Super Tuesday":

Republicans

Candidates: George Bush, vice-president and front-runner of polls in the southern-dominated races; Robert Dole, Senate Republican leader, fighting to stay in contention; Pat Robertson, former TV evangelist, needing big outpouring of religious followers to be a contender; Jack Kemp, New York congressman who might drop out unless he scores upset wins.

At stake: Republicans will nominate their presidential candidate at the Republican convention in New Orleans, starting Aug. 15.

It will require 1,139 delegate votes to win, a majority of the 2,277 delegates.

On Super Tuesday, Republicans will select 753 delegates, about 33 per cent of all delegates, and 66 per cent of the number needed to win.

Democrats

Candidates: Michael Dukakis, Massachusetts governor, showing well in some polls in the South; Jesse Jackson, civil rights leader and only black, expected to make only black, expected to make

a big surge in south among blacks; Richard Gephardt, Missouri congressman hopes populist message will win in the South; Albert Gore, Tennessee senator needing big victories in his native South to be viable; Paul Simon, Illinois senator who dropped out of active Super Tuesday campaigning; Gary Hart, running token campaign after poor starts in earlier

races.

At stake: Democrats will pick their nominee at an Atlanta convention starting on July 18. It will require 2,082 out of the 4,162 total delegates to win.

On Super Tuesday, 1,307 delegates will be chosen, more than 31 per cent of the total Atlanta delegates, or nearly 63 per cent of the majority needed to win.

British military exercise begins in Falklands

LONDON (AP) — A 25-day military exercise to test Britain's ability to reinforce the Falkland Islands against enemy invasion began quietly Monday with an intelligence-gathering war game, the British Ministry of Defence said.

"At this stage, it's very much a paper exercise," a spokesman said. "The exercise will start with intelligence reports that an enemy is raising the threat level. They will play out a scenario."

A British infantry battalion of 600 to 1,000 troops is to be flown in Tristar and VC-10 transports flanked by F-4 Phantom fighter-bombers to the South Atlantic archipelago on March 17 and 18, the spokesman said. He spoke on the condition he be identified.

A dispute over the Falkland Islands sparked a 1982 war between Britain and Argentina, which calls the islands the Malvinas and claims them as an inheritance of Spanish colonial rule.

Argentina, which has launched a diplomatic offensive against the manoeuvres said its armed forces would be placed on "defensive alert." Britain insisted the exercise was purely defensive.

The exercise Fire Focus will demonstrate how a new £395 million (\$690 million) airport in the Falklands will permit quick reinforcement of the Island's military garrison by British-based forces 13,000 kilometres away.

The exercise, which runs through March 31, is the largest since the war and the first in which reinforcements are being flown in from Britain. In 1982, Britain could not airlift troops because it did not have access to a suitable runway, and its naval force took weeks to reach the

island between the government and Sikh hardliners, and fresh state elections.

Deputy Home Minister P. Chidambaram did not mention elections when he defended the moves Monday in the Lower House.

He described the continuation of the assembly as purposeless and futile. He said the government would introduce a bill to extend direct rule of Punjab from New Delhi beyond May 11.

Gandhi sacked Punjab's moderate Sikh government last May 11 for failing to curb separatist killings, suspended the assembly and imposed direct rule for one year.

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logue between the government and Sikh hardliners, and fresh state elections.

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WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Manila may lift ban on maids to Jordan

MANILA (R) — A worldwide ban on Philippine women working as domestic helpers may be lifted shortly in at least Hong Kong and Singapore. Philippine President Corazon Aquino suggested Sunday. Aquino said the two Asian centres along with Jordan now represented "no problem" for the Philippines, which is seeking to protect its workers abroad after repeated complaints that Filipino maids were being sexually abused and subjected to slave-labour working condition. "In countries where we have no problems, we will be allowing our female workers to go there. But in countries where there are problems, it will take some time before we let the female workers go there," Aquino said in a radio broadcast. She gave no further details.

Vatican was ready to pay ransom'

ROME (AP) — The Vatican was ready to pay a ransom to free former Italian Premier Aldo Moro from his Red Brigades kidnappers, and Pope Paul VI contacted the guerrilla group, Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti was quoted Sunday as saying. Panorama magazine made available excerpts of the interview prepared for its March 13 issue, and the recollection of Andreotti was eagerly scooped up by Italian newspapers as the 10th anniversary of the abduction approaches. On Sunday media also quoted a Vatican official as denying the claim in Panorama that Paul VI had established contact with the kidnappers. Moro, a Christian Democrat and former five-time premier, was seized March 16, 1978, in an ambush near his home that killed five of his

3 IRA activists shot dead in Gibraltar

LONDON (R) — Three Irish guerrillas killed after planting a car bomb in the British colony of Gibraltar were unarmed when they were shot in a British Army ambush, a British Defence Ministry spokesman indicated Monday.

Republican sources identified them as Mairead Farrell, 31, Daniel McCann, 30, and Sean Savage, 24.

Witnesses in Gibraltar said fire was opened at the suspected guerrillas without warning. Two were killed at a petrol station near the airport and the third was ran towards the town centre.

Asked whether any warning had been given before the guerrillas were shot, Stewart said: "It's much too early to comment in detail on what has happened."

British Armed Forces Minister Ian Stewart told a radio interviewer that the IRA operation was disclosed by an intelligence tipoff, and that the bomb was planned to explode during a military ceremony in Gibraltar Tuesday.

Stewart said the car bomb "could have caused a great deal of loss of life and other damage."

The car, with Spanish license plates, was parked outside a Jewish old people's home, a bank and an educational theatre 500 metres from the residence of Gibraltar

COLUMN

King Tut artefacts found at discoverer's home

LONDON (R) — A grandson of the man who helped discover the tomb of Tutankhamen has unearthed a hoard of Egyptian artefacts hidden in the family's home for more than 60 years, the Times of London reported Monday. The tomb of Egyptian King Tutankhamen, who lived about 3,338 years ago, was found almost intact in 1922 by explorers Howard Carter and the Earl of Carnarvon, in a major boost to Egyptology. The antiquities were discovered when a 75-year-old retired family butler helped the present Lord Carnarvon compile an inventory at Highclere Castle, in the south England county of Hampshire. The old retainer agreed the task was almost completed, "except for the Egyptian stuff," the Times said. The butler then led the way to two hidden cupboards, an unused document room and a housekeeper's drawer where most of the 300 objects were found. "The discovery fills the remaining gaps of the extraordinary story of the finding of the tomb of Tutankhamen — the greatest Egyptian find in history by the fifth earl (also Lord Carnarvon) and Howard Carter," the Times said. One of the most valuable objects was a wooden face of Tutankhamen's grandfather, it said.

Single women very concerned by AIDS

NEW YORK (R) — Three of every four single American women are extremely or very concerned about the impact of AIDS, and two of five said their sex lives were directly affected by the deadly disease, a new poll showed Sunday. People magazine said that while very few cases of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) have occurred in the United States outside the known risk groups — homosexual and bisexual men, intravenous drug abusers and their sex partners — its poll showed anxiety and confusion have become widespread.

The country has already gone onto a cash basis. With banks closed, payment by cheque or credit card has become virtually impossible and Panamanians were offering their pay cheques at a discount on the streets.

Delvalle, 50, who was deposed by the Panamanian parliament after attempting to fire Noriega last month, is recognised by Washington as the legitimate head of government, but had not been accepted by opposition groups.

The fact that he was a non-elected Noriega appointee more than two years ago bad prompted doubts of his chances of becoming a realistic rallying point for political opposition to the military regime.

Philippine rebels kill 9

MANILA (Agencies) — Communist guerrillas shot dead six Philippine sailors and three civilians near an American base, and in a separate attack seized an entire town and held its police force hostage, the Philippine army said Monday.

It said the sailors were returning to Subic Naval Base Sunday when rebels fired on their jeep six kilometres from the base, also killing three civilian hitch-hikers.

The sailors were from a local unit providing security at Subic, America's biggest overseas naval base.

It was the second major guerrilla attack in four months outside an American base.

A U.S. Navy spokesman said Sunday's attack was not directed in any way at American personnel, and the base had not reacted. "It only concerned Filipinos," he said.

On Saturday, about 100 rebels in captured government vehicles, seized Aha de Illog on Mindoro Island, 160 kilometres south of Manila after overpowering the town police station and holding six officers hostage.

The military report said the rebels blocked entry to the town of 14,000 people and cut it off from all communication and transport. They seized arms, ammunition and radio equipment and fled after making political speeches to residents.

In another development, a priest identified as a rebel commander by the military has fled Mindanao Island after he was wounded by comrades who learned he was planning to surrender, officials said Monday.

The Reverend Frank Navarro sent word to the government that he was recuperating in a Cebu area hideout and wanted to surrender and be granted amnesty, said Romeo Capangpangan, spokesman of the Department of Social Welfare.

Capangpangan said Navarro apparently suffered a bullet wound to the shoulder in an ambush last week by his own followers in Mindanao's Surigao Del Sur province.

Fergie and Andy too far?

LONDON (R) — Britain's Duke and Duchess of York were flying home from Los Angeles Monday into a barrage of press criticism about their behaviour during a visit the Americans dubbed a "rollicking Royal roadshow." After 10 fun-filled days of delighting Californian crowds with their public antics and quips, Prince Andrew and his wife, the former Sarah Ferguson, are being scolded by Britain's press for finally breaching the bounds of royal protocol. Britain's racy tabloids had a field day reporting on the risqué dresses that "Fergie," expecting her first child in August, chose to wear in the company of Hollywood's stars. But the serious Sunday Times asked whether the couple spent too much time partying, instead of acting as ambassadors for British culture and trade, the main reason for their trip. "In the event, the Yorks spent less than seven hours of their 10-day sojourn promoting trade with Britain," the newspaper said.

Joe S. in [illegible]